The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 6. NO. 34. WASHINGTON D. C. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1916. WHOLE NO. 294.

WORKERS' PROGRESS BASED ON UNIONISM

Baltimore, Nov. 18.—The philosophy of trade unionism, its effectiveness and its necessity are presented in a most convincing manner by the A. F. of L. executive council in its report to the annual convention, now in session in this city:

"There is nothing more conspicuous in the developments of the past year than the importance and power of the economic organization of the workers. Since its inception the American Federation of Labor has stood for the principle that the fundamental power of the workers is their economic power and that industrial influence they exert in industrial or political matters is because they have been so organized as to make their economic power to promote their own welfare and their ideals of better standards of life and work and to free toil. The wisdom of this policy has been demonstrated over and over again, but never more conspicuously than during the past year. The wage-earners have secured more fitting consideration and the part they take in national life and development.

"The economic organization of the workers is fundamental; it has its origin in the primary needs and wants of the workers and is close to the life. Through it over this power is organized and wisely wielded it affects directly the fundamental rights of individuals. Economic power is the primary power and all other kinds of power are derived from it or are dominated by it in proportion to its development.

"The tremendous success that the A. F. of L. has had in past years in securing remedial and protective legislation has been the result of organization and the use of economic power. For political purposes, during the past year, the scope of labor's activity has been greatly enlarged along by the representatives of the American Federation of Labor, by the many non-organized workers, who were the majority among the strikers, had their confidence and trust.

"As a result of the propaganda, free meetings in the open air and all activities, literature, etc., throughout the island, the workingmen of Porto Rico will achieve great moral uplift and considerable benefits in the shortest time.

"These people are now gathering the fruits of their endeavors. As a result of the strikes, another labor organization will be needed and each new union will contain a full contingent of members with more experience than ever."

OPTICAL WORKERS STRIKE.

Southbridge, Mass., Nov. 18. — A strike of 500 workers employed by the American Optical company should disturb the financial world, for the employs nothing but the highest skilled workers. Most of the strikers are Italians, Poles, Lithuanians, Italians and Poles, and many of them cannot understand the English language. In the lens shop piece work is the rule and $1.25 and $1.00 is the average for a 10 or 9 hour day.

The Labor News of Worcester makes this comment on the strike:

"The good old Yankee adage that the American manufacturer desires 'protection' and a higher tariff as a 'protection' against cheap labor from the pauper labor of Europe' is being shown up in another instance where the employer refuses to pay living wages to labor and screws the poor foreigner down to a wage level lower than any American would work for, or than those driving the poor foreigner as far as possible into the mire of inadequate wages and living conditions, is it surprising that the poor immigrant should not avail himself of the organizing unions? It is shown more conclusively every day even to the dullest observer, that the only help for union is his only salvation against greed and tyranny."

A RINGING APPEAL.

Chicago, Nov. 18.—"Hold Fast! Keep Together! Don't quit!" is the ringing appeal of Victor Olander, secretary Illinois State Federation of Labor, to trade unionists in this city. "Don't allow the fight to stick to their unions, keep every local committee intact and attend every meeting session of the state assembly.

"Just a word of caution—of warning," declares Olander. "Don't attempt to add too much additional machinery to your local movement—don't organize independent of your local unions—don't even adopt titles for local committees that would indicate anything in any way separate from the regular trade union organizations. Keep within the labor movement under the direct jurisdiction of the central body and local unions of your vicinity. Remember that nothing has brought unto labor greater strength than each other, nothing has aroused in us any greater enthusiasm, faith, trust and loyalty to one another, than the union, our trade organization, in which we discuss and act upon our immediate affairs as workers."

PROTECT WINDOW CLEANERS.

San Francisco, Nov. 18.—The state industrial accident commission has issued tentative safety orders regarding window cleaning. Every phase of this calling is covered and window cleaners are prohibited from passing from window to window on the outside except where there is a projection from the face of the building at least 6 inches wide or except where a railing or handhold is provided or where the window ledge is less than 24 inches above the grade.

All movable ladders, except substantial stepladders, shall be provided with rough cleats five feet or other suitable ways to prevent slipping.

No man shall be placed at the foot of ladders 15 feet or more in length when same are being used.

CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT.

Washington, Nov. 18.—President Gompers has forwarded the following letter to President Wilson at Shadow Lawn, N. J., last week:

"Despite the most desperate efforts of intrenched power as represented by wealth alone with its blinded followers, the common people have stood the test and have proven true. The cause of labor, justice, freedom, American patriotism and humanity has triumphed.

The people and our republic are to be congratulated on your re-election as president."

STREET CAR MEN PROGRESS.

Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 18.—The local street car company has signed a one-year union shop contract with the Street Car Men's union. Wages are increased 5 per cent for employes in the operating department, car barns and power house, and the company has accepted the check-off system for dues. This is the first wage demand since the union was organized, three years ago. The increase will total nearly $6,000 a year. International Treasurer Resin Orr of the street car men and A. F. of L. Organizer C. H. Miller assisted in the negotiations.

TRADE UNION METHODS SUCCEED IN PORTO RICO

Washington, Nov. 18.—Porto Rico workers have been benefited by affiliation to the American Federation of Labor, writes Organizer Santiago Iglesias, of San Juan, Porto Rico, to A. F. of L. headquarters. "Their has been a true and real awakening of the laborers in all the trades and different industries of San Juan," he says. "The spirit of the labor movement and organization is more intense than ever before in past history. It seems that the seed of unionism, cast for so many years, is now sprouting strongly and vigorously in this capital of the island and other important towns.

"The strikes that have broken forth in the middle of last August, up to this date, have been more frequent and numerous than at any other time in the history of the labor movement of the American Federation of Labor in Porto Rico. The coal workers, the longshoremen and men employed in the docks, the wharves and railroad warehouses have risen to a man — one on strike, and all their demands have been granted, because. Their victory has been encouraging, and has cast considerable credit on the various labor organizations that have been helping, encouraging and loading these important forward movements."

Organizer Iglesias reports that local railroad shop employes of San Juan won a strike that secured higher wages, better working conditions, and recognition of action. Female employes of the Porto Rican-American Tobacco company, to the number of 2,000, have secured concessions as the result of a strike. The same is true of meat cutters and butchers. Building trades employes in the metal trades are still on strike.

"All these strikes," continues Organizer Iglesias, "have been managed and helped along by the representatives of the American Federation of Labor, who were the non-organized workers, who were the majority among the strikers, had their confidence and trust.

"As a result of the propaganda, free meetings in the open air and all activities, literature, etc., throughout the island, the workingmen of Porto Rico will achieve great moral uplift and considerable benefits in the shortest time.

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A. F. of L. Convention in Session at Baltimore

Baltimore, Nov. 18.—Last Monday the thirty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor convened in this city.

In his opening address President Gompers declared that the people had sustained completely the two passages of the Clayton law and the seamen's act. In referring to the Mexican situation, the American Federation of Labor, he said, played an important part by counseling the Mexican workingmen so that they might for a steadying influence upon the people and government of that country, to the end that "the exploiters of Wall street should not drive us into passion and anger and compel us to fight our own much weaker sister republic of Mexico.

"The Lusitania situation was taken well in hand by the administration government," continued President Gompers, "and instead of declaring war, which might have served the purposes of that diplomacy have accomplished all that a war could secure."

In referring to the eight-hour movement of railroad employes, President Gompers said: "Up to Tuesday of the year the labor insisted that the Adamson eight-hour law was not an eight-hour law. The railroad officials have been calling it nothing else but an eight-hour law."

One of the last resolutions presented calls for a federal commission to investigate the high cost of living. It is referred to the executive committee of the United Mine Workers of America and declares that "the chief beneficiaries of this abnormal situation are the bitterest enemies of organized labor."

Fraternal delegates are present from Great Britain, Canada, Japan and Mexico. In an address to the convention President Susuki, of the Japanese Friendly society, referred to war as "a revolt against humanity."

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REJECT ROCKEFELLER "UNION."

Trinidad, Col., Nov. 18.—The Monthly Bulletin of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company gives the following account of the Rockefeller "union," whose record, it is stated, "has been thoroughly gratifying to all who have the interests of the company and its employes at heart."

Editor O'Neill, the Trinidad Free Press, is cynical, however, and makes this comment:

"No one would expect that a publication financed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company would condemn the industrial plan" formulated by the chief cabinet of John D. Rockefeller, jr.

"The 'industrial plan' established by Rockefeller is a failure, and the fact that the miners and other employes employed in the plants of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, are deserting the 'industrial plan' and becoming members of the United Mine Workers of America, proves that laboring men have discerned the swindle that has been palmed off on them by Rockefeller will preserve the interests of the economic master, while protecting the interests of the victim of wage slavery.

"The Monthly Bulletin is endeavoring to 'build up a fake,' but its effort is useless upon the credulity of the working class will be met with the building up of a real union on the ruins of an 'industrial plan,' that died from the ailments of its own infamy."

TRACTION STRIKE COSTLY.

New York, Nov. 18.—September financial reports issued by New York railways company and the Interborough Rapid Transit company, should convince the public officials and corporations that union smashing ventures are costly propositions.

During September the New York railways company carried 11,010,300 passengers, a decrease of 1,000,000, or about 10 per cent, from the number carried in the corresponding month of 1915. The passengers carried were only 8,238,242, a decrease of 2,606,058.

The report makes no mention of the thugs and army of strikebreakers, the double time paid them, housing and feeding, and the large number of private detectives employed.

The strike started last September and was caused by the companies attempting to force employes to sign individual contracts. Every effort has been made to maintain the strike and the companies persist in referring to it as "the recent strike."

CORRECTLY SIZED UP.

Topeka, Kan., Nov. 18.—Writing in the labor department of the Topeka Daily Capital, W. T. Luce presents a correct estimate of labor legislation opponents:

"We do not desire to be led into making any rash statements that we have a growing conviction that the railroads are peeved at the Adamson law, the workmen's compensation law and labor legislation. In the case of the federal child-labor law, it was the cotton mill owners who first raised the outrage. In the seamen's act it was the ship owners whose libertine ways were curtailed. In the Clayton law, which declares that human labor is not a commodity and that human labor cannot be put into restraint of trade, offended those employers who desired to outlaw all labor organizations. That labor's law worthy of the name can be passed without 'outraging' some business interest. The abolition of human slavery was a fearful slam on the slave owners."

METAL MINERS CHANGE NAME.

Denver, Nov. 18.—By a referendum vote the Western Federation of Miners favor changing the name of their organization to "International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers." It is stated that the new name corresponds to the jurisdiction, industrially and geographically, of the metal miners. Application will be made to the American Federation of Labor to sanction the change.

At a meeting of the miners' executive board in this city it was decided to inaugurate an extensive organizing campaign. In a statement to affiliates, the board said:

"Your board fully believes that the year 1916 will mark the beginning of the greatest era in the history of the metal miners' organization."

GRADE CROSSINGS ARE DEADLY.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 18.—With 11,726 grade crossings in the state, only 1,000 of which are protected in any way, there were 405 grade-crossing accidents during the year ending June 30, the number of people killed was 341. These figures, submitted in a report to the public service commission, accompanied by the suggestion that the state make an appropriation in order that it may be able to do its part in abolishing grade crossings.

DEATHS BY TUBERCULOSIS.

Lansing, Mich., Nov. 18.—The average death rate in Michigan from tuberculosis of the lungs is 78.5 per 100,000 estimated population, according to a special report made by William P. Petrie, in charge of the state's bureau of vital statistics. The disease proved fatal to 11,411 persons in Michigan in the five years preceding 1914.

WORKERS' CRITIC IS FLAYED

San Francisco, Nov. 18.—The "arrogance and inefficiency of labor" is a term now used by "smart" writers who itch to attract the attention of financial interests and large employers of labor.

The latest to apply this term is the financial writer in a weekly publication, who is answered as follows by the editor of the San Francisco Bulletin:

"The financial writer has evidently never been in strike he probably sat at a well-built desk in a tastefully-furnished room in building whose construction required the skill and conscience of hundreds or even thousands of workmen. When he had finished he may have gone to lunch in an automobile whose pedigree runs back to mine, forge, rubber plantation, steel mill, and textile mill, over well-laid streets, which drew heavily on human labor for their construction, and he certainly ate food brought and prepared for him through the toil of countless human beings whom he never saw. No matter where he went he could not have escaped from organized labor upon the highly efficient labor of other men. The very comfort of his existence, or of the existence of anyone who is even moderately well off, is primary proof that a vast amount of difficult and disagreeable work is done with efficiency of labor' is he whose own method of earning a living has long been so successful as to any of the services which he hires others to do for him. In a country where observers cannot lift his eyes without looking upon some astounding product of human ingenuity there is no disposition to underrate labor for the peevish critic, nourished by a thousand daily miracles, who is discontented with the world they are not all flawlessly performed."

THANKS A. F. OF L.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Secretary Frank Morrison, of the A. F. of L., has received the following letter from President Golden, of the United Textile Workers of America:

"At the convention of the United Textile Workers of America, held in New York city, from the 16 to 18 inclusive, we unanimously passed instructing the secretary-treasurer to extend to President Gompers, Secretary Morrison and the executive council of the American Federation of Labor our vote of thanks for their splendid assistance, both moral and financial, which they have generously rendered the United Textile Workers of America during the current year in aid of the campaign of organizing which has been so successfully conducted among the unorganized textile workers of the country.

"As a result of the success of this campaign we are in need to refer to the fact that we are now paying per capita tax on practically double the membership of one year ago, and we are still growing.

"Had it not been for the splendid assistance rendered by the American Federation of Labor, this healthy increase in membership would not have been possible."

BIG PROFITS OF PAPER MAKERS.

Washington, Nov. 18.—As a result of an investigation of news print paper prices the federal trade commission presents facts and figures to show that the present high price of this commodity is unwarranted. It is stated that during the first half of the present year, when prices were soaring to ungodcended figures, the average cost of production of one ton of news print mills was less than $1.65 per 100 pounds, or below the average cost in the years 1913 and 1914.

"It should be noted," the statement continues, "that the most important material which enters into the manufacture and ground wood, were produced by most of the paper manufacturers without an increase in price, while many other material prices, while some other manufacturers were protected against the increase in prices by contracts. Some other materials which were purchased at advanced prices were very small factors in the total cost. Certain economies were also practiced in the use of expensive materials."

"THE LADY FROM MONTANA."

Washington, Nov. 18.—For the first time in the history of the national congress the speaker of the house of representatives will recognize one member of that body, after which a cheer will go up, "The Lady from Montana."

She is Jeanette Rankin of Missoula, Mont., elected as representative-at-large, at the recent election, is the first woman ever elected to the national lawmaking body. She is an ardent advocate of equal suffrage.

WIRE MEN URGE SAFETY RULES.

Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 18.—The Electrical Workers' union has asked the state public service commission to pass a rule prohibiting work on lines carrying more than 5,000 volts, unless the wires are "dead."

Electric unionists say they are compelled to work on wires carrying 6,600 volts and that they want rules that will permit a greater degree of safety from electrocution.

SUNSHINE IN COLORADO.

Denver, Nov. 18.—In no section of the country has the sunshine appeared in a brighter day than in Colorado. Gov. Carlson is defeated, as is Supreme Court Judge Gabbert, the state supreme court debarred Judge Granby Hilyer from presiding at the trial of striking miners, Judge Gabbert wrote a dissenting opinion. Judge Hilyer presided at the trial of John Lawson, but the miners contend that when the state supreme court that debarred him from future cases, Gov. Carlson appointed Hilyer after the legislature created a special judicial district for this ex-attorney of the coal operators.

Another glorious victory for democracy and humanity was the defeat of Greeley W. Whitford, candidate for district judge in Denver county. Five years ago Whitford issued an injunction against miners and their wives, which the latter did not obey. Thousands of trade unionists and their friends paraded the streets of this city in protest, which resulted in the release of the unionists.

The Colfax avalanche swept Huerfano and Las Animas counties, in the southern part of the state, the scene of the recent miner strike. The former county is known as the "Kingdom of Jeff Farr," where numerous outrages against striking miners were perpetrated. Recently, the state supreme court ousted Farr from office. Sheriff and tool of election has smashed beyond all recognition the last remnant of a political machine that has for years held down and foster gunmen and drive trade unionists out of mining camps.

EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 18.—That the dominant note in American citizenship should be preparation for the patriotic performance of the duties and obligations of citizenship, rather than the right to receive the public schools filled with demoralizing political influences, declared Dr. James Y. Joyner, state superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina, in an address delivered before the session of the sessions of the Central Ohio association.

"Intelligent citizenship," said Dr. Joyner, "is the chief end of all education in a democracy. Amid all the confusion of voices in this era of educational fermentation, criticism and experimentation, there should be one loud note in American education true to this chief end."

Dr. Joyner declared citizen-making is a work of training rather than of instruction. He said that vocational education for the preparation of the great industrial army necessary to the efficiency of the nation's population, for more efficient and profitable work, is not only an economic necessity in a democracy, but also a democratic right and obligation. "Without it," he said, "many cannot have equality of opportunity," he added, "to work and to live, to get the most for themselves and to contribute the most to others."

SEAMEN'S LAW UPHELD.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 18.—Judge Neterer has handed down a decision that the seamen's law, which is so bitterly opposed by them, has "teeth," and they must abandon efforts to secure its repeal, insofar as the state of Washington is concerned of seamen.

This decision was made in the case of a sailor who shipped from Australia for Puget Sound. On arriving in this city he was discharged and was not originally treated by the second mate and that the captain of the vessel permitted his subordinate to abuse sailors.

The owner and captain of the vessel attempted to avoid responsibility by claiming that the seamen's law did not apply in this case as the complainant was not a citizen of the United States, to this claim the court replied:

"The fact that the libelant is not a citizen of the United States does not change his relation to the act, as engaging in the service as one of the crew of the American ship, he placed himself within the protection and benefits of all of the laws passed by congress with the view of American seamen, and subject to all of their obligations and liabilities."

PLUMBERS MAKE GAINS.

Lowell, Mass., Nov. 18.—After a four weeks' strike the Plumbers' union secured a 50-cent wage increase, and six months later, on costs, together with a 9-hour day six months in the year.

Santa Barbara, Cal., Nov. 18.—Plumbers and steamfitters in this city have raised wages without a strike. Thorough organization made the success of these workers possible.

WINDOW CLEANERS GAIN.

Newark, N. J., Nov. 18.—Window Cleaners' Local Union No. 16,268, A. F. of L. has won a two weeks' strike, and the following gains have been secured: Nine hours per day, six working days, time and one-half for overtime, Sundays and holidays, and wage increase of from $3 to $4 a week.

R. R. WIRE MEN ADVANCE.

Decatur, Ill., Nov. 18.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers has secured a 10 per cent increase for its members employed by the Wabash railroad. The minimum rate is now $60 a month. Overtime rates are increased from 40 to 50 cents an hour and transportation to employes who have worked for the company for more years, besides other concessions, have been secured.

"SHORTAGE OF COAL DUE TO RAILROADS"

—EXPERT DECLARES.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 18.—The shortage of coal was due to the lack of cars as the result of gross mismanagement and incompetence of railroads, says J. W. Dawson, president of the Kanawha Coal association, Charleston, W. Va., in an interview published in a local paper.

"If the coal operators had just returned from an investigation of the coal shortage and the alleged car famine that exist throughout Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. He said the present practice of railroads of charging shippers $1 a day for each day a car stands unloaded on a sidetrack, and for the road owning the car to pay 5 cents a day, places a premium on the misuse of cars by every railroad in the country.

"If the interstate commerce commission, the state public service commission and the commerce bodies of all of these states could exercise their efforts in regard to the largest railways to treat fairly the smaller railways, which serve the many fields, and establish railways to pay each other not less than $1 per diem for foreign cars while on their tracks, and require them to treat freight with some degree of promptness, the whole coal question would be solved in 10 days or two weeks.

"I notice the New York Central proposes to have $15,000,000 in additions to the general strategy of railroads to secure legislation from congress that will lie to the benefit of those employed in interstate transportation service.

"Railroads would be especially welcome to the passage of a law similar to the Canadian industrial disputes act, which prohibits a strike of workers employed in a public utility until after a government investigation. This law was denounced by the last convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, after a nine years' trial, and the Dominion government has not dared to repeal the same. The same theory, applicable to all industrial disputes, would be a law by the last Colorado legislature, and a similar federal anything to do with the union."

These workers, however, hint that if they were unorganized they would receive the same treatment accorded other employes.

This concern is a part of the American Tobacco company. In a suit before the United States district court in which the Reynolds company was involved, Chief Justice White said:

"Considering, then, the undisputed facts which we have previously stated, it remains only to determine whether they establish that the acts, contracts, agreements, combinations, etc., which were assailed, were such an unusual and wrongful character as to bring them within the prohibitions of the law. That the true test is the question whether wrongfully results from the undisputed facts is not difficult to answer to refer to the facts as we have stated them to demonstrate the correctness of this conclusion. Briefly stated the history of combination is as re tete with the doing of acts which it was the obvious purpose of the statute to strike at. The genesis of the existence from the beginning was the purpose to acquire dominion and control of the tobacco trade, not by the mere exertion of the ordinary right to compete and to trade which inheres in all, but by methods and purposes devised in order to monopolize the trade by driving competitors out of business, and to that end to acquire the power, with the assumption that to work upon the fears or play upon the cupidity of competitors would make success possible."

SETTLED 275 DISPUTES.

Baltimore, Nov. 18.—In an address to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, James Wilson, ex-secretary of the United Mine Workers' union and the present secretary of labor, said that the best means between labor and capitalists that had come before his department, 275 have been adjusted in a manner entirely to both sides and before a strike had been reached.

"The greatest of all the functions of the department of labor," he said, "is that of bringing about a more equitable philosophy of the wage-workers of our country come into the councils of the people of the United States."

Secretary Wilson made it clear to the delegates that he is the same old rugged trade unionist as of yore, and has not wavered in his faith in organized labor because he happens to be a member of the president's official family. He said he was present "for the purpose of showing which side he is on."

GIRLS PAID LOW WAGES.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Nov. 18.—The Worker, official newspaper of the local federation of labor, explodes the claim that this city ever increased the wages of girls in labor. It is stated that most of the factories are working 10 hours and still employ the girls at the old piece-work system. "A number of these plants," continues The Worker, "have a penalty clause for this, that and the other violation or office-made rules, and these fines are deducted from the amounts actually earned by the girls at piece work. Conditions both morally and financially are terrible. There is one advantage for the woman wage worker—organization. Tentative plans for several organizations are on foot in this city and Fort Wayne may yet be relieved of the onus of low wages."

BONUS CLASSED AS WAGES.

Altoona, Pa., Nov. 18.—A referee of the workmen's compensation board has ruled that a bonus to keep men on the job must be included in wages when computing benefits under the state compensation law. A workman was killed in an explosion at the plant of the Astra Powder company. The work is dangerous and a portion of the employes receive a bonus. The referee has ruled for the company as a "bonus."

The referee awarded company terms and ruled that benefits should be based on wages received.

OHIO IRON MOLDERS WINNING.

Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 18.—Iron molders in this city have won a strike for a nine-hour day and a $2.50 wage rate. Several firms are still unyielding and the molders say they will stick until the companies tire of their expensive system of employing strikebreakers.

GRANITE CUTTERS GAIN.

Ithaca, N. Y., Nov. 18.—The Raymond Hoare firm has signed its first agreement with the Granite Cutters' International association. The new minimum 44-hour week and a $4 minimum is accepted.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Erie, Pa., Nov. 18.—Typographical union No. 77 has signed a three-year agreement with employing printers. Wages on newspapers are increased $1 a week to October 1, 1917, and 50 cents a week increase for the years 1918 and 1919.

RAILROADS ATTACK ADAMSON 8-HOUR LAW

New York, Nov. 18.—Railroad managers and the executives of the four railroad brotherhoods failed a step nearer to this city last Monday to reach a common understanding on the workings of the Adamson eight-hour law.

The meeting was unsuccessful. The railroad managers notified the managers that the strike order, given them by their members before the law was passed, was still in effect and that the managers persist in attacking the law through the courts that the strike order will be enforced January 1 next.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Numerous suits against the Adamson eight-hour law for railroad train service employes have been started by railroad companies throughout the country.

Since then a dozen of the highest priced lawyers in the nation have been retained by the companies to study the law to find a constitutional infirmity in the law. It is now stated that the fifth amendment to the federal constitution, which declares that no man shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, will be the principal refuge of these attorneys.

This amendment is the regulation defense of corporations when enjoined in its opposition to social legislation.

Observing trade unionists, however, believe that these suits are only a part of the general strategy of railroads to secure legislation from congress that will lie to the benefit of those employed in interstate transportation service.

Railroads would especially welcome the passage of a law similar to the Canadian industrial disputes act, which prohibits a strike of workers employed in a public utility until after a government investigation. This law was denounced by the last convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, after a nine years' trial, and the Dominion government has not dared to repeal the same. The same theory, applicable to all industrial disputes, would be a law by the last Colorado legislature, and a similar federal anything to do with the union."

These workers, however, hint that if they were unorganized they would receive the same treatment accorded other employes.

This concern is a part of the American Tobacco company. In a suit before the United States district court in which the Reynolds company was involved, Chief Justice White said:

"Considering, then, the undisputed facts which we have previously stated, it remains only to determine whether they establish that the acts, contracts, agreements, combinations, etc., which were assailed, were such an unusual and wrongful character as to bring them within the prohibitions of the law. That the true test is the question whether wrongfully results from the undisputed facts is not difficult to answer to refer to the facts as we have stated them to demonstrate the correctness of this conclusion. Briefly stated the history of combination is as re tete with the doing of acts which it was the obvious purpose of the statute to strike at. The genesis of the existence from the beginning was the purpose to acquire dominion and control of the tobacco trade, not by the mere exertion of the ordinary right to compete and to trade which inheres in all, but by methods and purposes devised in order to monopolize the trade by driving competitors out of business, and to that end to acquire the power, with the assumption that to work upon the fears or play upon the cupidity of competitors would make success possible."

SETTLED 275 DISPUTES.

Baltimore, Nov. 18.—In an address to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, James Wilson, ex-secretary of the United Mine Workers' union and the present secretary of labor, said that the best means between laborers and capitalists that had come before his department, 275 have been adjusted in a manner entirely to both sides and before a strike had been reached.

"The greatest of all the functions of the department of labor," he said, "is that of bringing about a more equitable philosophy of the wage-workers of our country come into the councils of the people of the United States."

Secretary Wilson made it clear to the delegates that he is the same old rugged trade unionist as of yore, and has not wavered in his faith in organized labor because he happens to be a member of the president's official family. He said he was present "for the purpose of showing which side he is on."

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"SHORTAGE OF COAL DUE TO RAILROADS"

—EXPERT DECLARES.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 18.—The shortage of coal was due to the lack of cars as the result of gross mismanagement and incompetence of railroads, says J. W. Dawson, president of the Kanawha Coal association, Charleston, W. Va., in an interview published in a local paper.

"If the coal operators had just returned from an investigation of the coal shortage and the alleged car famine that exist throughout Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. He said the present practice of railroads of charging shippers $1 a day for each day a car stands unloaded on a sidetrack, and for the road owning the car to pay 5 cents a day, places a premium on the misuse of cars by every railroad in the country.

"If the interstate commerce commission, the state public service commission and the commerce bodies of all of these states could exercise their efforts in regard to the largest railways to treat fairly the smaller railways, which serve the many fields, and establish railways to pay each other not less than $1 per diem for foreign cars while on their tracks, and require them to treat freight with some degree of promptness, the whole coal question would be solved in 10 days or two weeks.

"I notice the New York Central proposes to have $15,000,000 in additions to the general strategy of railroads to secure legislation from congress that will lie to the benefit of those employed in interstate transportation service.

"Railroads would especially welcome the passage of a law similar to the Canadian industrial disputes act, which prohibits a strike of workers employed in a public utility until after a government investigation. This law was denounced by the last convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, after a nine years' trial, and the Dominion government has not dared to repeal the same. The same theory, applicable to all industrial disputes, would be a law by the last Colorado legislature, and a similar federal anything to do with the union."

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